

Tickets on Sale Now For Charlotte Jewish Film Festival

The highly anticipated Charlotte Jewish Film Festival returns March 4-14. A full slate of internationally acclaimed movies awaits the film lover in you. Tickets are available for purchase at www.charlottejewishfilm.com or directly from our ticket vendor, www.CarolinaTix.com. See the trifold insert in this month's *Charlotte Jewish News* for a full schedule of films, descriptions and run times. There will be eleven screenings this year, including two free films.

Poignant documentaries, hilarious comedies, intense thrillers — there is sure to be something for everyone. Buy your tickets now as many films sold out last year. The all-festival pass is a bargain at \$64, which is the same price as last year and more than \$30 in savings. It makes a great Valentine's Day gift for the film lover in your life.

The Festival opens on March 4 at Providence Day School with the Israeli film *A Matter of Size*, followed by a lavish dessert reception, both sponsored by the Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah. *A Matter of Size* is a crowd-pleasing comedy that has been wowing audiences worldwide and is sure to capture your heart as well. There will be a second screening of this film for our Lake Norman neighbors on March 10 at the Charles Mack Citizen Center in

Mooresville, sponsored by Beth Shalom of Lake Norman, the Lake Norman Jewish Congregation and the Lake Norman Chapter of Hadassah.

Take a trip back to the Golden Age of Cinema with the silent film *His People* at ImaginOn Uptown on March 8. Acclaimed pianist Ehtan Uslan and the Charlotte Symphony's Principal Clarinetist Gene Kavadlo will provide live musical accompaniment. This special evening of film and music is being brought to you free of charge by the Public Library of Charlotte-Mecklenburg County.

Head back Uptown on March 11 for the edgy drama *For My Father* presented by the Light Factory. Winner of the Audience Award at the 2008 Moscow International Film Festival, this movie explores Palestinian-Israeli



relations from the viewpoint of a would-be suicide bomber who surprisingly connects with the "enemies" and feels the spark of life returning to his soul.

These are just a few of the award-winning films and programs that will help make the 6th Annual Charlotte Jewish Film Festival the best one yet. Come and enjoy an afternoon or evening of quality and affordable entertainment with the Charlotte Jewish Film Festival — you won't want to miss it.

The Charlotte Jewish Film Festival is brought to you by the Levine JCC and the Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah, and is made possible, in part, with funding by the Arts and Science Council and



the North Carolina Arts Council, National Endowment for the Arts, an agency of the Department of Cultural Resources, and the which believes that a great nation deserves great art. ☆

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New Steinberger Funeral Assistance Fund Established

Hebrew Cemetery

By Lorrie Klemons, publicity

Jewish tradition calls for Jews to bury our own and it is the obligation of every Jewish community to do so. This obligation, however, does not come without a high price tag.

Although the Charlotte Jewish community has historically prospered and flourished, the hard economic times our country has suffered has greatly impacted our community and the level of giving that it once was so committed to. No Jewish agency has been untouched by the effects of the economic downturn and the Charlotte Hebrew Cemetery Association is no exception.

As a non-profit organization, the Hebrew Cemetery depends largely on donations, annual membership dues and the sale of graves for the resources needed to maintain the sanctified grounds of the cemetery in perpetuity for all those who precede us in eternal life. The Cemetery Association's mission is a commitment to God's commandment that we bury our own, and the Cemetery has done so, regardless of the deceased individual or family's ability to pay. The Cemetery Association has long struggled with the issue of the burial of indigent Jews and the current reality is that this mitzvah is becoming more and more difficult to do as inflation continues to drive prices up, while the horrific economy drives donations down. The total cost of a funeral today ranges from \$6,000 -

\$11,000 and obviously no one organization can handle that burden on its own.

The cemetery is leading a community wide approach to deal with this dilemma. The Jewish Federation of Charlotte, along with the Temples and Jewish Family Services, are all working cooperatively to create a common plan in order to meet the crisis.

Currently, Jewish Federation funds about 10% of the overall operating budget of the cemetery which allows some measure of assistance. In addition, Jewish Family Services qualifies individuals as to the level of need and pays towards the cost of burial. Local funeral homes also help. The point is, however, that due to rising cemetery costs and concerns of elder care givers for end of life planning, we need a community wide participatory plan sooner rather than later. No one organization can handle the mitzvah of burying our own when the very minimal cost for an indigent burial is \$6,000.

As a means of proactively meeting this great challenge head on, Mr. Norman Steinberger has created and endowed the Steinberger Funeral Assistance Fund. The goal of this fund is for it to be the collection point for monies collected specifically for the fulfillment of the commandment to bury our own and it will become the distribution point to cover all indigent burial expenses, including funeral service, grave,

grave markers and perpetual care.

Norman Steinberger is one of those rare unsung heroes, who humbly serves and gives to the community in quiet and often-times, unnoticed ways. The Cemetery Association asks the entire Charlotte Jewish community to join with it in publicly extending our deepest gratitude and thanks to Norman for his outstanding generosity, compassion, vision and inspiration. It is Norman's hope that this Fund will inspire other individuals and community agencies to participate in the mitzvah of burying our own.

In the secular world, February is Random Acts of Kindness month. In the Jewish world, everyday is a day for *G'melut Hasadim* (acts of lovingkindness). To perform your own act of lovingkindness, make a donation today to the Steinberger Funeral Assistance Fund. Send your checks payable to the Hebrew Cemetery and earmarked for the Steinberger Funeral Assistance Fund directly to the Charlotte Hebrew Cemetery Association, 4229 Peggy Lane, Charlotte, NC 28227.

For more information about membership benefits, graves, pre-paid funeral costs, endowments, and/or including the cemetery in your estate planning, contact contact Cemetery Director, Sandra Goldman at 704-576-1859 or 704-944-6854 or director@hebrewcemetery.org. Visit the cemetery website at www.hebrewcemetery.org. ☆

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To learn more please contact Phil Warshauer, Executive Director of the Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community at 704-973-4544 or pwarshauer@charlottejewishfoundation.org

A copy of the latest Financial Report and Registration filed by United Jewish Communities, Inc. may be obtained by contacting Joseph Stalbow at United Jewish Communities, Inc., 25 Broadway, Suite 1700, New York, NY 10004, 212-284-6500. You may also obtain financial information directly from the following state agency: North Carolina: Financial information about United Jewish Communities, Inc. and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Section at 1-888-830-4989. The license is not an endorsement by the state.